

Announcements

New Requirements for Recertification/ Maintenance of Certification in 2001

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery who plan to participate in the recertification/maintenance of certification process in 2001 should pay particular attention to this notice because the requirements have changed.

In addition to an active medical license and institutional clinical privileges in thoracic surgery, effective in 2001, a valid certificate is an absolute requirement for entrance into the recertification/maintenance of certification process. If your certificate expired, the only pathway for renewal of a certificate will be to take and pass the Part I (written) and the Part II (oral) certifying examinations.

In 2001, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery will no longer publish the names of individuals who have not recertified. In the past, a designation of "NR" (not recertified) was used in the American Board of Medical Specialties directories if a Diplomate had not recertified. The Diplomate's name will be published upon successful completion of the recertification/maintenance of certification process.

The CME requirements have also changed. The new CME requirements are 70 Category I credits in either cardiothoracic surgery or general surgery earned during the 2 years prior to application. SESATS and SESAPS are the only self-instructional materials allowed for credit. Category II credits are not allowed. The Physicians Recognition Award for recertifying in general surgery is not allowed in fulfillment of the CME requirements. Interested

individuals should refer to the 2001 *Booklet of Information* for a complete description of acceptable CME credits.

Diplomates should maintain a documented list of their major cases performed during the year prior to application for recertification. This practice review should consist of 1 year's consecutive major operative experiences. If more than 100 cases occur in 1 year, only 100 should be listed.

Candidates for recertification/maintenance of certification will be required to complete both the general thoracic and the cardiac portions of the SESATS self-assessment examination. It is not necessary for candidates to purchase SESATS individually because it will be sent to candidates after their application has been approved.

Diplomates may recertify the year their certificate expires, or if they wish to do so, they may recertify up to 2 years before it expires. However, the new certificate will be dated 10 years from the date of expiration of their original certificate or most recent recertification certificate. In other words, recertifying early does not alter the 10-year validation.

Recertification/maintenance of certification is also open to Diplomates with an unlimited certificate and will in no way affect the validity of their original certificate.

The deadline for submission of applications for the recertification/maintenance of certification process is May 1 each year. A brochure outlining the rules and requirements for recertification/maintenance of certification in thoracic surgery is available upon request from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, One Rotary Center, Suite 803, Evanston, IL 60201; telephone number: 847-475-1520; fax: 847-475-6240; E-mail: abts_evanston@msn.com.